such an electorate as would secure at least one Member for the community in each Division. He contended that, if the question of the percentage of the Pulayas to the entire population of the State be considered, they were entitled to a better representation in the Assembly. The community, however, desired only for a reasonable representation.

In conclusion, the Member pointed out the utter helplessness of the Hindu Pulayas. They had no benefactor, no patron, no organisation, no fund. They were Hindus to the core, but they were still outcaste and untouchable. Their only salvation lay in conversion, which effected their social emancipation. That was a contingency which should be avoided in a Hindu State like Travancore. He therefore appealed to the Government to remove the disabilities of the community and emancipate it from social injustice and degradation.

Dewan's reply.—The several suggestions of the Member will be considered.

158. The removal of the obstacles encountered by the Pulayas in securing permanent habitation.

Mr. Ayan Kali (Member, Nominated) said that the Members of his community were mostly dependent on other classes of people. Few had lands of their own, and their dependence on others even for a bare plot of ground to stay was a source of grave apprehension to the community as to their future well-being and security. The Government had recognised their situation and as a result of such recognition sanctioned the assignment of 500 acres of land to the Pulayas in the Vilappil *pakuthi*. That was 4 or 5 years ago. The assignment was not yet complete. The Member requested that orders should be issued for the registry of the lands in question at a very early date.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

159. The need for establishing a Bank, either Government or Private, at Trivandrum.

Mr. T. N. Motha (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) said that the commercial activity of Trivandrum had become so much that the want of a Bank was seriously felt by the people. The importance of the town would increase with the completion of the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway and the Valiathoray Pier. The absence of a Bank having relations with all important centres affected the progress of commerce, especially foreign commerce. He pointed out that the transactions of the local Bankers called Hundi Merchants were not so wide nor was their credit so largely accepted as to be a good substitute for a Metropolitan Bank like the Bank of Madras. The Madras Bank would open a branch in Trivandrum only if the Government encouraged them by offering a guarantee. In the interests of the commerce of the city, the Member requested that either a good Bank should be invited to open a branch or the Government itself should undertake the starting of a Bank in the town.

Mr. P. John Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that the Hundi Merchants, found in almost all parts of the country, gave out money and paddy at an usurious rate of interest and proved very often to be the cause of the ruin of merchants and agriculturists. The necessity of a State Bank was therefore keenly felt. At the commencement of the war, there was a financial crisis at Alleppey, since the Bank took back all the sovereigns and rupees and, as a consequence, copper coins alone were left in the market in plenty. The recurrence of such financial disasters could be prevented only by the establishment of a State Bank. The Member also referred to the enormous loss sustained by Travancore on the collapse of Arbuthnot & Co., and observed that such losses were incidental to the absence of reliable Banks in the State. He also adverted to the Mysore State Bank and requested that the Government should set about the creation of a State Bank by utilising a portion of the immense amount of money lying idle in temples or a

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